

AGENDA ITEM 10: Delta Recreation Update

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Requested Action: **Receive Delta recreation update: 2015 Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta Recreation Inventory and Delta Recreation Research Agenda**

2015 Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta Recreation Inventory

Since its inception, the Commission has published periodic inventories of Delta recreational facilities to inform its Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP), initially in 1997 and updated in 2005. Commission consultants also surveyed recreational facilities in preparation for the 2012 Economic Sustainability Plan. For the current update of the Delta Recreation Inventory, Commission staff contracted with California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) to update and enhance data related to Delta recreation facilities and their amenities.

Preparation of the 2015 Inventory assists with Commission efforts to promote increased Delta recreation and tourism, promote the economic sustainability of the Delta, and foster public-private partnerships and multiple-use of appropriate lands. The Inventory provides a snapshot in time (2015) of recreation information to inform the update of the Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan, as well as ongoing planning activities. The Recreation Inventory tables and maps will be used within the context of the Delta Tourism Awareness Marketing Plan (under development by Delta Conservancy in conjunction with the Commission) to improve the guest experience and help promote Delta-wide tourism.

The report finds growth in agri-tourism with increase of winery operations in Yolo County and farm trails such as *Sacramento River Delta Grown* and *Harvest Time in Brentwood*. The research also documented a decrease in the number of Delta marinas.

The 2015 Inventory includes updated Delta region maps of recreation facilities, parks, wildlife areas and areas of historical significance. Tables identify boating, fishing and hunting access areas, as well as marinas, trails, lodging and recreation supply sales.

Additionally, the Inventory includes a Delta Recreation database, an electronic repository of facility, provider, owner, location and amenity information. This dynamic database will allow Commission staff to update and maintain current recreation facility information with the assistance of recreation stakeholders and the Delta Conservancy.

The 2015 Inventory will be published as a web-based document available on the Commission's website and the Commission will publicize its availability. Additionally, copies will be provided to the Delta Marketing Taskforce and Delta recreation providers upon request.

Delta Recreation Research Agenda

Public Resources Code § 29759(a)(4) mandates the Commission to identify ways to encourage recreational investment along the key river corridors. In addressing this mandate, the 2012 Economic Sustainability Plan recommended improved data on recreation and tourism use. To support this mandate, staff contracted with researchers at California State University, Sacramento to: 1) identify the various ways the Delta is currently used for recreation; 2) identify recreational opportunities in the various regions of the Delta, and; 3) identify important areas for future recreation research.

The researchers outlined three potential research projects in the Delta Recreation Research Agenda, with suggested methodologies and potential costs for conducting each project.

The potential research projects include:

- Non-motorized Watercraft Usage of the Delta – a focus on visitation use and spending patterns by stand-up paddle board, wind and kite surfboard and kayak users in the Delta.
- Cultural Tourism and Agri-tourism in the Delta and the Economic Impact of Special Events – a focus on visitation preferences and information sources for visitors of Delta farms, historic districts, museums, wineries and festivals.
- Social and Environmental Barriers to Positive Tourism Development in the Delta – examination of the physical, social and policy elements that detract from current Delta recreation and tourism opportunities, or that displaces visitors to other sites in the region.

Commission staff will seek opportunities to fund these research projects. Should these proposed projects be funded, the information provided would further the Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan policy to assess and prioritize the need for new regional public and private recreation access facilities. Additionally, the projects would inform the Recreation and Tourism component of the Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan update.